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### PREPARING FOR THE VIET NAM WORKERS' PARTY'S 40th FOUNDED ANNIVERSARY

THE Secretariat of the C.C. of the Viet Nam Workers' Party has just given instructions on the commemoration of the 40th founding anniversary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party (Feb. 3). The first of the 31 slogans put forth read as follows:

1. Mark the 40th founding anniversary of our Party!

2. All for our victory over the US aggressors!

3. Let our entire Party, army and people closely unite around the Party's Central Committee, fulfill the last wishes of President Ho Chi Minh, defeat the US aggressors and successfully build socialism!

4. For national independence and freedom, let us resolutely surmount all difficulties and hardships, persevere in, and step up, the war of resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, till total victory, liberate the South, defend the North and achieve the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country!

The other slogans pay homage to the valiant combativeness of the army and people in the heroic South and North; call on various sections of the people to discharge their responsibilities; show gratitude to the Parties, governments and peoples of socialist countries, to the international communist and workers' movement, the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and peace-loving people all over the world for their support to the Vietnamese people's struggle; wish success to the action of the American people against the US war of aggression in Viet Nam, and to the fight of the Indo-Chinese peoples against the common enemy — US imperialism; express staunch support to the legitimate effort of the Arab peoples against the Israeli aggressors, and of the world's peoples for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

### 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the DRVN and Socialist Countries

## INDEFECTIBLE HISTORICAL TIES

TWENTY years ago, in the second half of January and the first days of February 1950, while our National Resistance against French colonialists was at its fiercest, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam was recognized by the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and the other European and Asian socialist countries, and diplomatic relations were set up between those countries and the DRVN.

One should look back a little to realize all the meaning and importance of this political event. Since Winter 1947, as a result of the failure of the French offensive against Viet Bac, the Vietnamese Resistance had entered a stage when the strategic retreat of our forces had ceased whereas we were still incapable of launching a general counter-offensive. One thing however was certain: the DRVN, which the colonialists had hoped to wipe out in no time, proved to be in a position to confront a big imperialist army. The years that followed 1947 were used by the Vietnamese people to consolidate their people's demo-

cratic State, their armed forces, their economy, their finances and to enhance their fighting potential so as to oppose to the invaders an ever stiffer and more successful resistance. The achievements of our people were keeping abreast of the progress of the world revolutionary movement. October 1949 saw the triumph of the Chinese Revolution. The geographical isolation of the DRVN came to an end. From now on, our country shared common frontiers with the socialist world. Conditions were thus ripe for the *de jure* recognition of the DRVN by the socialist countries.

This step, which confirmed the maturity of our State, was bound to contribute at the same time to the growth of the latter. It heightened considerably the international prestige of the DRVN, increased manifold our people's strength and gave a new impulse to our struggle for independence. Our historical victory at Dien Bien Phu and our resounding successes from 1950 to 1954 were indissolubly linked with the support and assistance given us by the Soviet Union, People's China

and the other socialist countries.

After the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, the socialist countries, always at our side, helped us generously in our economic rehabilitation and building of socialism in the North, and showed active sympathy with the fight waged by the Vietnamese in both zones for the achievement of national reunification, in face of Washington's imperialistic designs. The support and assistance of the socialist countries grew with the landing *en masse* of US troops in the South and the unleashing of the air war of destruction against the North. While relying mainly on their own strength, our people also highly value the part of brotherly socialist countries in the making of our great successes over the most powerful imperialist country.

The DRVN, unflinching in face of US assaults, enjoys now a prestige higher than ever before. Following in the steps of the socialist countries and many countries of the third world, Sweden recognized her in 1969, whereas

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People's militia of X. Island (Quang Ninh mining area, Bac Bo Gulf) in drill



### South Viet Nam

#### ○ Annihilation of Important Enemy Forces:

— 2,500 Adverse Troops Put out of Action in Two Weeks in 3 Provinces of the Mekong Delta.

— 1,800 Others Wiped Out in Central and Southern Trung Bo in 8 Days.

○ 26 Aircraft Downed or Damaged in 16 Days in the Mountain Area between Khe Sanh and A Bia

○ Over One Hundred Targets Hit by PLAF Artillery from January 17 to 21.

## "The U.S. Stance Is Inspired by U.S. Intention to Deny the Vietnamese People Their Fundamental Rights" Says Mr. HA VAN LAU

ON behalf of the DRVN Government delegation, Ambassador Ha Van Lau reviewed at the 51st session of the Paris Conference the developments of the confrontation between the two completely conflicting positions and attitudes over the last year at the Conference: the eager desire to achieve independence and genuine peace and good will and serious attitude of the DRVN and the RSVN on one side, and the neo-colonialist and aggressive position and attitude of the US on the other.

The DRVN envoy denounced US pursuance of its scheme for aggression against Viet Nam for over 15 years by political and economic means, and escalating it to a colonialist war involving over half a million US troops and half a million puppet troops. As these military measures failed, the US had to unconditionally stop the bombing of the DRVN and send a delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. But it

still intends to prolong its war of aggression by trying to negotiate from a "position of strength" in combination with military moves on the battlefield. Though such a "position of strength" cannot be achieved by the US, the latter does not give up the illusory hope for a military decision and makes all-out efforts to drag the war out as a main measure and stall the talks.

Mr. Ha Van Lau exposed US attempt to justify its aggression in Viet Nam and its tricky "peace plan". "I strongly condemn and guarantee the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people," etc. In reality, the US government has been trying to drag on its aggression, is reluctant to withdraw all US troops and is striving to prolong the military occupation of South Viet Nam by US troops. It has been endeavouring to maintain and strengthen the Thieu-Khiem puppet administration.

tration as a tool of the US against the South Vietnamese people's patriotic struggle. Over the last year and after 50 sessions, it has been trying to stall the US position on the settlement of the Viet Nam question has not been inspired by the respect for the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people. Instead it has been prompted by its desire to deny these fundamental rights, under false pretences.

"If the Paris Conference is to get out of its deadlock and to end in success, if the way to Viet Nam is to be promptly terminated, the only way is that the Nixon administration should give up its outdated aggressive and neo-colonialist stance and engage in serious negotiations at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam." Ambassador Ha Van Lau concluded.

### Hanoi Press Opinion

## AGNEW'S ASIAN TRIP

ALTHOUGH Nixon had given Agnew every prestige uplift, the 60,000 kilometre tour only earned him and the US imperialists bad reputations. Agnew's abundant measures on the anti-US demonstrations wherever Agnew went, from Manila to Auckland.

The Filipino people greeted him with turbulent demonstrations under the slogans, "Go back, Agnew!", "Agnew, crocodile of the US!", and "Americans, withdraw from Viet Nam!" Filipino youth and students threw stones and explosive and gas bombs at Agnew's car and called for an end to the US aggression in Viet Nam.

In Thailand, the activities of the patriotic armed forces and the people's movement for the dismantling of US military bases, the withdrawal of US troops from Thailand and that of Thailand troops from South Viet Nam, have given a vigorous impetus by the US Vice-President's tour. Even in remote highlands of Asia, Agnew also met with strong protests.

In Katmandu, youth and students demonstrated under the slogans, "Agnew, go home!", "Down with American imperialism!", "Americans, out of Viet Nam!" and to Viet Nam to the Vietnamese!"

At Kabul, hundreds of students hurled stones at Agnew's car, tore it apart and shouted, "Down with

American imperialism!" and "Stop killing Vietnamese!" In Australia, tomatoes and eggs were slung at him while protesters chanted, "Agnew, go home!", "Fascist pig!" Hundreds of youths carrying flags of the DRVN and of the Republic of South Viet Nam blocked the way of Agnew's party. About the outbreak in Auckland, New Zealand, UPI said, "it was one of the most violent demonstrations ever seen there."

Agnew's experience was not just a personal failure but chiefly one of the US imperialists and the war policy of the Nixon administration. Agnew's task was to explain the "Nixon doctrine" and "New Asia doctrine" and "Vietnamization of the war". He had been instructed by the Nixon administration to give the US satellites in Viet Nam, the US Embassy and the US troops from Thailand and that of Thailand troops from South Viet Nam, a demonstration of the US Vice-President's tour. Even in remote highlands of Asia, Agnew also met with strong protests.

His stealthy visit to Saigon only showed the Nixon administration's abominable and illudious hope to prolong the war and maintain its neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam through the "Vietnamization" program. In Bali,

Spiro Agnew declared that the end of the Viet Nam war was still a long way off, and "a quick pull-out of American troops from Viet Nam would be disadvantageous to Southeast Asian countries."

It is clear that Agnew had a hard job strengthening the confidence of the US satellites. Faced with popular protests, the Philippines administration had had to withdraw its troops from South Viet Nam. Filipino Foreign Minister Carlos Romulo cast his doubts on "the American defence of the Philippines in the future". The Chiang Kai-shek clique made it plain that despite US oft-repeated promises, their moral was crumbling. Reactionary ruling cliques in Thailand, Australia and New Zealand uttered unveiled threats that they were considering pulling out their mercenary troops from Viet Nam.

Agnew's recent tour was another tricky move of the Nixon administration. But it has failed in covering up the US failure in Viet Nam, and has only thrown more light on the US policy of aggression against the Vietnamese people.

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## Giai Phong Press Agency REFUTES U.S. CHARGE

GIAI Phong Press Agency on Jan. 21 issued the following statement:

"The US Military Command in Saigon published on January 17 the fantastic story that the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces had 'executed' two US prisoners allegedly captured near Hue by the PLAF and detained for 45 days."

"Giai Phong Press Agency

is authorized to reject this charge as a crude slander, and a move aimed at diverting public attention from the US imperialists' atrocities against the PLAF fighters and other patriots in South Viet Nam, and a cheap pay-off gimmick coordinated with the so-called POW question about which the US has been raising a hue and cry at the Viet Nam Conference on Viet Nam."

## G.D.R. Red Cross Refutes Western Press Distortions on American Captured Pilots

PROFESSOR Dr. Werner Ludwig, President of the GDR Red Cross, handed on January 13 to pressmen a statement refuting the false report spread by the Western press that the East German Government had rejected the position of the DRVN Government concerning the

so-called question of prisoners-of-war, Viet Nam News Agency correspondent in Moscow reported.

The statement wrote: "In my capacity as head of the GDR Red Cross delegation to the Istanbul Conference, I declare: The question of the American pilots now detained in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has never been included in

the agenda of the Conference and there has been no resolution of the Conference on this question. Everyone knows that the DRVN has been treating those detainees in a humane manner."

The statement declared approval of the DRVN Government's position which regarded the American air pirates captured in the DRVN as war criminals who have perpetrated crimes against humanity and as such, are subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

It also pointed out that the above-said distortions aimed at creating confusion in the mind of the public and misled world opinion which has been revolted by US crimes in Viet Nam.

## INDEFECTIBLE HISTORICAL TIES

(Continued from page 1)

the problem of her recognition is on the agenda of the ruling circles of many other capitalist states.

Twenty years have elapsed since our country joined the international community, by setting up diplomatic relations with the socialist countries in the first instance. The ties which bound Viet Nam to the socialist countries have ever since been considerably strengthened. Indeed between the socialist countries

and various national liberation movements, between those countries where the building of socialism has reached a relatively advanced stage and a country which is taking initial steps in the building of socialism while still having to carry on one of the most gruelling anti-imperialist efforts, the ties of brotherhood, solidarity and co-operation are necessary and historical ties. And as such they are indefectible.

## THE NORTH - GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

## WIDESPREAD EMULATION MOVEMENT TO HONOUR PARTY ANNIVERSARY

SINCE the New Year began the whole North Viet Nam has been carrying out a stirring emulation movement for higher efficiency in production and other work to commemorate in a practical way the four major anniversaries occurring this year (the 40th founding anniversary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, February 3; the centenary of Lenin's birth, April 24; the 80th birthday of President Ho Chi Minh, May 19; and the 25th founding anniversary of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam).

After Hanoi and Haiphong took the initiative, many provinces and services have inaugurated their year's first drives of emulation to honour the coming anniversary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party.

In their current campaign for new achievements as a tribute to the Party "the co-op farmers in Hai Hung and Thai Binh, two important rice-growing provinces of North Viet Nam, are focusing on an all-round good Winter-Spring cultivation."

Every day, hundreds of thousands of co-op farmers in Hai Hung go to the fields. Many crash courses in the various districts to teach co-op farmers in the new planting method which is more efficacious and more in line with agro-techniques than the traditional one. Nearly 60,000 co-op farmers have gone through these courses.

The co-op farmers in Thai Binh have also taken part in numbers in rice-planting courses. Besides, tens of thousands of co-op farmers in the province daily go to the fields to repair or dig more canals and ditches to expand the water conservancy systems. A "Double Front Offensive" (to ensure high technical standard and to be efficient in labour) has been launched which has drawn 200,000 young co-op farmers as activists of the emulation movement in the province.

In Ninh Binh province, hundreds of youth and co-op farmers took part in the "Labour Festival" on January 4, the first socialist labour Sunday to be held in the province this year. All the leading officials including the Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee and the Chairman of the Provincial Administrative Committee attended it.

To stimulate the patriotic emulation among the various localities and services throughout North Viet Nam, the Viet Nam Federation of Trade Unions has issued a general call on the workers and public employees to bring into full play their role as vanguard of the movement.

Also in Ninh Binh, more than 30,000 cadres, workers and teachers have gone to the agricultural co-operatives to take part in the building of irrigation works and other farming activities. With their assistance, the co-op farmers in Ninh Binh have moved 31,100 more cubic metres of earth for irrigation purposes, carried an additional 1,023 tons of manure to their fields and prepared an extra 1,000 hectares for cultivation.

In Quang Ninh province, an emulation drive called "Spring production drive in honour of the 40th founding anniversary of the Party" has been inaugurated with a view to realizing from 26 to 30 per cent of the 1970 coal production plan for the area.

Coal workers at the "Coc 6" mine have made over 100 suggestions to boost efficiency in drilling, the key job in coal extraction at the mine. Thanks to the application of these innovations, right in the first shift of 1970 they exceeded 63 technical norms, raising productivity by more than 30 per cent compared with previously.

Workers of the Ha Lam mine, in the first working day of 1970, topped their daily quota by 600 tons of coal.

Emulating the miners, the workers of the transports and screening sections at Hon Gai also increased their labour efficiency by 50 per cent.

Emulation drives in honour of the 40th anniversary of the Party have also been opened at the various ministries and services.

At the colleges and secondary vocational schools, representatives of the teaching staffs and students have met to work out the watchword for the movement in their establishment. The directives adopted called for greater results in study and scientific researches, better designing and planning to meet the requirements of production units, setting up of appropriate production and experimental installations right in the colleges and schools.

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It is a long way from the district town to her home in Dan Chu village, about a dozen kilometres or so. Every time she used to come to attend a conference or make a routine report to the district committee, Mrs. Thuc did not spend the night there but rode home on her bike even if it was already dark; she still had to attend to her newborn baby.

That day the vent home when it was already dusk. She worked her pedals hard on the macadam road. There were few passers-by at that hour. Occasionally, a car would drive past, dazzling her with its headlights and raising a cloud of dust. Thuc hurried on, paying no attention to the surroundings, engrossed as she was in the reports at the district level. The road was the winter rice crop. The conference had cheered her up in many a respect.

## Mrs. Thuc, an Exemplary Party Member, an Able Village Headwoman

She arrived at the village before the sun went down. Each time she looked at the banyan tree at the village gate and her modest cottage in the neighbourhood. Thuc was filled with an indescribable joy, the joy of having accomplished a task which was that of being back to her beloved ones.

"Mum is back!"

Little Thuan and Hong who were waiting for her, cried out with joy. Thuc laid the bike against the wall, took off her outer jacket and changed the dust off her clothes. Then she took the three-month child in her arms and said fondly:

"O my darling daughter, you slept like a log while I was at the meeting. What a jewel you are!"

The child looked at her mother with her black round eyes, then flashed an innocent smile, hitching the air with her little plump legs.

After suckling the kid, Thuc did some washing for little Hong, her dear daughter, with all her mosquito net and tucked her in. Then she lit a kerosene lamp and went out for a check on the pig and poultry pen. The house remained as neat and clean as it was in the morning when she left. Instinctively by the thought of the Party and felt immensely indebted to it for having brought a true change for the better in the life of her family, for having inculcated into her children such fine virtues as the love for her parents, discipline and industriousness.

After seeing to the household chores, Thuc sat down on the veranda to give another suck to the baby. The moon spread its mellow glow, making the leaves of sugar-cane trees behind the kitchen glimmer like pointed blades. Somewhere, a young man in the entrance gate young men

and women were merrily calling to each other to a meeting.

Thuc's memory went back to the day when Nam, her husband, who was at the time garrisoned on Bach Long Vi Island, returned home on a short leave. It was the night moonlight like this but in summer-time and the wind blowing from the sea was pleasant and so cool.

After many days of fierce fight against enemy planes and warships Nam lost some flesh and was thinner than usual. But his stony and firm look remained the same. Thuc had just been nominated for the village committee chairmanship and she had been in two minds. Some encouraged her to take up the job but others had what to say to her. "You have many small kids to raise. That's not the job for you!" To tell the truth, she

did not dread difficulties. Since her admission to the Party, she had not turned down any Party assignment. Nam, her husband, who was the village committee member, was something she had never thought of. At the meeting of the Party cell, comrade Khat, the secretary, had convinced her of her abilities and promised assistance to her in her new position.

After all, she thought, if one strictly keeps to the Party line, anything can be done. Firm in her conviction, she however wished to write her husband for his opinion and changed the dust off her clothes. Then she took the three-month child in her arms and said fondly:

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dream of such a responsibility. Just try your best. Do you remember, in the former war of resistance, hardships and privations were numerous, yet we both managed to take part in them, didn't we? Isn't any reason why we can't get all our work done?"

Thuc's love and esteem for her husband who shared with her the same ideal, the same eager desire to put their heart and soul in the service of the community.

Thuc was appointed chairman of the village committee at a time when many difficulties were cropping up. Dan Chu village, in Ky district, had long been known for its alluvial and low-lying fields permanently threatened by flood. The unequal level of the lands made it almost impossible to build rice bund

aries for irrigation purposes. Thuc, moreover, was ignorant of the characteristics of the fields in her village. Comrade Khat, her husband, showed her how to work out this and that plan. After each session with her, he would tell her with a smile: "Don't you worry. You can always solve any problem concerning production and the people's life if you know how to rely on the masses. That's the key to success."

Everyday Thuc was seen in her black trousers with roll-up legs trudging along muddy rice plots to determine the nature of the soil of each plot and the redistribution of the cultivated land to the co-operatives. At night she would attend meetings of the youth, women, old people...

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# THAILAND'S PARTICIPATION IN U.S. WAR AGAINST LAOS

(Excerpts from Jan. 13 memorandum by Laotian Patriotic Front Central Committee)

EVER since the late fifties the US has transformed Thailand into a bridgehead for sending US weapons and war means to its Laotian henchmen from Katay Donasorith, Phou Samanik to Phoum Noyan.

Even after the signing of the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, it kept relying on Thailand to further its intervention and aggression in Laos. The US-Thailand collusion, either surreptitious or open, has by now reached so dangerous a level that it is causing alarm to public opinion right in the US and Thailand.

## 1 — A system of strategic US airbases set up and a big US air force deployed in Thailand in service of the war against Laos

A system of US air bases has now been spread over the Thai territory. Of these, mention should be made of the following six major ones which are directly serving the US war of aggression in Laos.

The Udon air base, 65 km from Laotian frontier, is accumulating four squadrons of F-4H jet planes (there are at least 12 planes to a squadron) specifically intended for launching raids in Laos. Another squadron is meant for night activity. Besides, the air base is also used for spying missions against the free zone of

Laos and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

— The Takhi and Korat air bases: Many squadrons of F-105 attack planes are based there. They can be easily turned into a big base for ground forces. At present, the 9th American logistics headquarters is installed there with big hardware stores: artillery pieces, tanks, trucks, ammunition, etc., chiefly reserved for the puppet army in Laos.

— The Udon airbase is accommodating four squadrons of F-4H jet fighters and two squadrons of reconnaissance planes. This base is also the headquarters of the American "special forces" in Southeast Asia code-named HQ 333 which is directly commanding the US-fostered "special forces" in Laos.

— The Nakhon Phanom air base: over 100 propeller-driven planes of all sorts: T-28, A-26, A-1H, Skyraiders, C-121, Caribons, U-2s, etc., are stationed there to cater for the supply and troops landing missions of the Laotian "special forces" scattered in over 200 positions throughout Laotian territory. Many of the "special forces" positions lie deep in the free zone of Laos to pinpoint targets for support from B-52 bombers. Or to provide support for attacks against the patriotic forces, such as the Pathet Lao, in the past and Longchong at present.

— The Nakhon Phanom air base which is also the headquarters of the Fifth American Air Command, in charge of training the Laotian "special forces".

— The Utopao air base with the longest airstrip in Southeast Asia (3,500m) is an operational base for B-52 strategic bombers, 200-ordinate with other B-52s taking off from Guam and Okinawa. Every 6 hours, a 15-minute bombing missions by one or two three plane flights of B-52s loaded with some 168 tons of bombs, is made against a "cluster of targets".

At present, over 100 B-52s are taking part in the war in Laos and in South Viet Nam. Westmoreland once evaluated the efficacy of this force, which comprises only 500 pilots and personnel, as equivalent to that of four infantry divisions.

— The Don Mueang air base and other airstrips used as front bases for "Jolly Green" helicopters in rescue missions for downed American pilots.

According to the French paper *Le Figaro*, the US air force at all these bases is served by 30,000 out of the 40,000 American troops stationed in Thailand.

The deployment of such a big air force of the US with such big strategic air bases and the careful assignments for each type of base or aircraft point to the strategic significance of Thai territory for the US in its war of aggression in Laos. In fact, over 400 US aircraft have been put to use in Laos since the bombing halt in the DRVN averaging 12,000 or 15,000 sorties a month, mostly from Thailand.

Recently, on December 8, in face of undeniable facts and strong opposition from public opinion, US President K. Nixon had to admit the existence of a "vast US air campaign" in Laos.

## 2—Thai combat troops committed to the war in Laos under direct US command

Since mid-1964, Thai pilots manning T-28 bombers have joined the US air force in bombings on liberated areas and many of them have been shot down. A captured Thai pilot, Chem Hamrung, shot down on August 18, 1965 with his T-28 plane, confessed:

— The Thai government has given me an assignment at the Vietnamese airfield to co-ordinate with the Phoum Noyan party in fighting against the Soukhanouvong party. From July 15 to August 18, 1964, I took part in 13 bombing missions, 6 against Phoukhout, 4 against Ban Huan and 3 against Heumouang. The last time, on August 18, 1964, on direct orders from Thao Ma (commander of the Laotian rightist party) at that time, I piloted a T-28 plane, No. 7770, in a reconnaissance flight over Thavien area, Nieng Khaoeng province.

Another Thai pilot admitted that he had made 14 sorties within 15 days, or one sortie every three days and a half. This alone suffices to reveal the level of Thai air activity over Laos.

In November 1965, the Thailand administration, taking a further step, signed with the Vietnamese clique the so-called "frontier defence treaty" which is in essence a military alli-

ance between Thailand and the Vietnamese stooges, under US aegis. The treaty provides for joint operations by river patrol boats of both sides along the Mekong River and guard units along the frontiers. Even Thai policemen have been sent to form mixed units with the Vietnamese police. Besides, there is an agreement between bandit chieftain Vang Pao and Bangkok on the setting up of a "buffer zone" of the Mee national minority along the frontiers.

At a meeting on November 27, 1967, Thai Prime Minister Thanom Kittakachorn publicly acknowledged a joint raid conducted by Thai and Laotian armed forces along the frontiers, in order to provide a shield for the sending of Thai artillery units and two Thai infantry battalions to Laos following talks between Phouma and Thanom earlier that year.

From clandestinely sending Thai troops in small units to Laos, the Thai authorities have since early 1969, following the bitter setbacks of US and rightist troops at Pethi, Na Khang, Muongsoi, etc., massively sent Thai combat troops to Laos and, as disclosed by the Western press, have sent them in Laotian uniforms. They are now operating beside Vietnamese troops.

With Thai combat troops' participation in the fighting, Thai "Vietnamization" clique have mustered over 40 battalions, mostly belonging to the US-fostered "special forces" in Laos and coming from Thailand. Recently, on December 8, in face of undeniable facts and strong opposition from public opinion, US President K. Nixon had to admit the existence of a "vast US air campaign" in Laos.

To transport food and war means and dispatch troops from Thailand to Laos, many strategic roads were built by the US in Thailand. Thus the road linking Bangkok to the Laotian border was completed by the end of 1966 to bring Thai troops from Southern Thailand to Vietnamese territory within a few hours.

US bases in Thailand, Lopburi, Udon, Nakhon Phanom are being used to train officers and soldiers, bandits, commandos, "special forces" and other forces in the US mercenary army in Laos.

THE Thailand reactionary administration, on the one hand, are lending a hand to the US in their war aggression in Laos and against the Soukhanouvong party. On the other, they also plan to furtherance the use of the strategic Mekong river area to provoke a war of aggression in South-East Asia. On the other, they also plan to utilize the Thai population of Lao extraction in Northeastern Thailand for the implementation of their expansionist plan against Laos.

The Thai government is vigorously carrying out the "pitting Asians against Asians" and selling out Thailand's sovereignty to the US imperialists' policy of "pitting Asians against Asians" and selling out Thailand's sovereignty to the US imperialists' policy of "pitting Asians against Asians".

These illegal acts of the US and its Thailand satellite constitute a gross infringement on Laos' sovereignty, independence, neutrality, and territorial integrity, and also systematic violations of the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos.

# SOVIET VIET NAM GUERRILLA SUCCESSES IN 1969

— A review by Gai Phong Press Agency —

In 1969, the armed forces and people throughout South Viet Nam stepped up guerrilla war against the US aggressors along their own or co-ordinating with other forces, mounted at least to waves of offensives throughout South Viet Nam or on a regional scale such as these in Quang Nam-Quang Ngai, the high plateau in July and November, and in the Mekong river delta in September, November and December.

In their concerted operation at the beginning of 1969 the guerrillas struck at most of the cities and towns throughout South Viet Nam, destroying an important amount of adverse manpower and war materiel.

First reports said that in the six months ending last November, they wiped out more than 50,000 US, puppet and mercenary troops, representing nearly 30 per cent of the total enemy supply in the country.

In the Southern part of the country, the guerrillas launched many concerted attacks on their own or a regional scale or in several areas at a time against hundreds of enemy positions in dozens of cities

or towns, military sectors or sub-sectors. According to still incomplete statistics, last year, the guerrillas, fighting on their own or co-ordinating with other forces, mounted at least to waves of offensives throughout South Viet Nam or on a regional scale such as these in Quang Nam-Quang Ngai, the high plateau in July and November, and in the Mekong river delta in September, November and December.

2. GUERRILLAS' OFFENSIVE POSTURE KEPT UP IN URBAN AREAS, THEIR ROLE AS CORE OF POPULAR POLITICAL ACTIONS PROMOTED, ENEMY GRIP SHATTERED AND "ACCELERATED PROGRAMME" FOILED

Fighting against such overwhelming odds as intensive enemy fire-power, the guerrillas became many difficulties unflinchingly kept up their offensive posture, firmly stood their ground in the urban centres and vicinities, assaulted most of the enemy key strongholds and nerve organs, including the urban centres, Hanoi, Da Nang, Da Lat, and Quy Nhon cities. Heavily defended airfields or bases of the enemy like the Bien Hoa, Da Nang and Nuoc Nam air bases or the Long Binh supply base were completely destroyed.

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were not immune from the guerrillas' blows.

With the guerrillas at their hard core, tens of thousands of people around the towns rose up and destroyed hundreds of "strategic hamlets" and other disguised concentration camps. In 1969, about 10 per cent of the people herded in the concentration camps in Tri-Thien-Hue area succeeded in breaking the enemy control and returning to their native villages.

The guerrillas were also very active on the enemy communication lines. Many enemy life lines were cut off repeatedly and at different places, bringing "pacification" raids in many localities to a halt. Co-ordinating with the guerrillas' encirclement of enemy positions, the population waged persistent political actions, forcing the enemy to abandon many guerrilla war areas.

Guerrilla warfare also took the form of political agitation among enemy ranks which resulted in the disbandment of many positions. Guerrilla warfare thus contributed to foiling the program for "Vietnamization of the war" in its initial stage.

3. DIVERSIFIED FORMS OF PEOPLE'S WAR

In 1969, the guerrillas resorted to multifarious forms of action which forced the enemy to parry the blows

right in their lairs and accept heavy losses.

Not only did they "raid enemy posts and fortifications but also struck repeatedly at strongly-guarded enemy strongholds including US and puppet mechanized groups.

The increasing rate of big-gun attacks which at times numbered a score per day represented a substantial advance of guerrilla warfare in 1969. This left practically no enemy position or nerve organ intact.

Guerrilla warfare also exposed enemy weaknesses in their defense by encircling the enemy with enemy forces in their own positions, cutting them off from one another and inflicting heavy losses with the permanent danger of annihilation. In the Mekong river delta, in North Viet Nam, Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Da Nang and Quang Nam provinces, the guerrillas destroyed or forced the enemy out of many positions. Even in the adverse defense perimeter around the cities and towns, guerrilla warfare caused a potential decrease in the strength of the enemy occupation forces and threatened the enemy's stay in the grass-root puppet administration, — the police and wretched thugs — thus repeated the "pacification" raids and encroachments.

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3. DIVERSIFIED FORMS OF PEOPLE'S WAR

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(Continued from page 3)

to neighbouring villages to buy new rice seedlings. Still we heaped all along the roads. Thuc plodded all day in the fields. She was dazed but her heart was light. The soil and unity of mind of the villagers instilled confidence in her. In fact, she had been a good plan, notwithstanding the havoc wrought by the typhoon, was fulfilled.

To get all the daily jobs done is not easy, yet to win the confidence of the people is a much harder one. Thuc knew that only by devoting main and might to the service of the people and the realization of the Party's ideal and setting a good example in every task could she persuade others to follow suit. In fact, not everybody supported her when she first took over the village chairmanship.

When the Administrative Committee was to prepare a year-end report to submit to the People's Council, the senior man in charge, by force of habit, once gave a list of figures. Thuc advised him to make a more substantial report by adding the necessary appraisals of the good and bad points, and to commend the hampers or co-ops with good achievements and criticize those who had fallen short of their tasks. The report drafter was anything but happy about her remarks.

Thuc worked under three chairmen but never seen anyone like you," he grumbled. Well, for her, many days you want me to write the report that way? Maybe you are a bit new to the job. The Party teaches us to rely on the masses in our work. Thuc answered unswayed. "A report is not a list of figures. It must give thorough appraisals to guide the masses to do better. Well, do it yourself if

new measures to take in the coming year. The rising sun gradually dispelled the thin morning mist and the golden rays of the fields. Nighty turned jurens in straight lines. The sunny weather would dry the clouds mired and when water was brought in and the field was harrowed, the soil would turn rich by the sheer pressure. Thuc caught the sound of demolishing, and spreading all over the place in the warm sunshine. In a few days they would be taken to the other fields where they continued to proliferate until they covered all the fields in the village. That was one of the things Thuc had predicted with firm conviction in her report at the district.

Looking at the well-ploughed fields and the luxuriant azolla plants. Thuc was all the more confident in the victory of the Party in the Winter-Spring cultivation in her village. She could now picture in her mind every field in the village and knew which of them was needing more manure and which more water.

Engrossed in her visions, Thuc went about all the fields to early. Thuc greeted women with a broad smile. A middle-aged woman totting a heavy load of azolla plants reached her almost to the ground, said:

"Look, there is no shortage of pig litter now. We have got plenty of azolla now. It's multiplying at a galloping rate. Thuc was very happy to see the farmers so frank and so friendly to her. She came up to the field boundary and helped the woman take

her baskets to the field. That's also an opportunity for her to have a look at the quality of the azolla plants.

Thuc was lost in contemplation before large squares of lush azolla which in the morning had differed like a myriad of glass splinters. She saw with her mind's eye those floating plants, spreading all over the place in the warm sunshine. In a few days they would be taken to the other fields where they continued to proliferate until they covered all the fields in the village. That was one of the things Thuc had predicted with firm conviction in her report at the district.

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"Look, there is no shortage of pig litter now. We have got plenty of azolla now. It's multiplying at a galloping rate. Thuc was very happy to see the farmers so frank and so friendly to her. She came up to the field boundary and helped the woman take

fields surveying. She dropped in at the mechanical pump station to pass the time of day with the workers, enquiring after the machine and its condition.

She did not return until past noon. The road leading into the village was straight and the trees on both sides by rows of fir trees. The road had been built only the year before last. The girls were wearing a coat loaded with soil, working like a flock of birds all along the road. The sight reminded Thuc of the past plight of the Tu Ky girls. She could again remember her village under the colonial feudal rule. There were only small lanes which in the rainy season would disappear under water and the village would look like an island amidst a sea of dirty water. To enter the village one had to waddle across muddy fields. Such roads as the was walking on were simply unlivable. Today, not only the villagers had built big roads to free themselves from the shoulder pole but the roads were wider and better. The Party to free themselves from the old oppressive life and march toward a bright future. That road was being pursued by Thuc and those happy girls.

TRUNG DONG

## The Nixon Administration's ...

(Continued from page 4)

destroy villages and all sources of life of the population. In an average of 1000 in September 1969, there have been 3 B-52 raids every week with 350-750 kg bombs, and in December 1969, on average, 2 artillery bombardments were recorded every 3 days, or a fourfold increase over 1968.

The Nixon administration also ordered US warships of the Seventh Fleet and US

aircraft based from South of Ben Hai river to bombard 60 villages in the Northern part of the DMZ and 3 villages in the next to the DMZ. Shells were more and more frequent, more than 100 in January 1969, and in December 1969, on average, 2 artillery bombardments were recorded every 3 days, or a fourfold increase over 1968.

# Military Operations

## News from Saigon

### MEKONG DELTA

**B**ETWEEN Jan. 1 and 15, in Ben Tre province, PLAF men killed 992, wounded 313 and captured 4 enemy troops in 120 engagements, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported. Besides, 796 members of the puppet army joined the ranks of the patriotic forces. In total, more than 3,000 men, including 21 officers, were put out of action in these attacks, two companies and 5 platoons of puppet "marines" were annihilated, 2 regional companies devastated, 3 cannons and 7 vehicles destroyed and a great quantity of weapons seized.

In a big sweep mounted by the enemy in 4 districts of Tra Vinh province, since Jan. 3 last, the PLAF killed or wounded 700 puppet troops and grounded to choppers after 11 days of fierce battles. Dozens of military units of the puppet army crossed over to the people's side.

The same source reported that in Chau Doc province, the enemy took about 450 casualties between Jan. 9 and 14. On the night of Jan. 13, at Ba Xoi alone, the PLAF wiped out 3 puppet companies and the American "advisers", the command of a riverine task force, two enemy troops put out of action, a vessel, 4 cannons and 1 military vehicle wrecked.

### CENTRAL AND SOUTH ERN TRUNG BO

**G**IAI PHONG Press Agency laid stress on the following operations:

— Do Nang sector: an-

nihilation of 240 adverse troops including 40 GIs and 300 South Korean mercenaries (40 in the town district) on Jan. 3, 4 and 6, 1970.

— Tam Ky sector: routing of a big sweep West of the provincial capital covered by armoured vehicles and aircraft from Jan. 6 to 8; over 400 enemy casualties, including one hundred GIs, 18 out of 23 armoured vehicles destroyed and 10 choppers downed.

— Quang Ngai sector: PLAF attacks of 36 enemy positions from Jan. 3 to 7; 550 enemy casualties including 273 American, a battalion CP and a US artillery company annihilated, a US battalion, a US company and a puppet battalion badly mauled, 3 cannons and 5 military vehicles destroyed.

— Binh Dinh sector: PLAF swept on a South Korean regimental CP, 2 km from Qui Nha town, on Jan. 4; about one hundred men including 60 officers killed or wounded. Interception on Jan. 6 of a truck convoy of South Korean mercenaries on Road No. 19 East of An Khe; 15 vehicles destroyed, 30 enemy casualties. On Jan. 18, another column suffered the same fate. Western press reported.

— Binh Thuan sector: PLAF attacks on 5 districts and Phao Thiet provincial capital on the night of Jan. 6; 300 enemy casualties.

— Da Lat sector: storming of Cam Ly airfield and an important urban centre on the night of Jan. 6, followed by clashes with enemy counter-attacking

forces: over 200 adverse troops put out of action, 73 vehicles wrecked, 4 fuel tanks burnt.

### OTHER OPERATIONS

**N** Tay Ninh province, 200 enemy troops including 150 GIs put out of action, 13 vehicles destroyed near Go Dau, about 60 km Northwest of Saigon on Jan. 8 and 9. In the battles about 40 km Northeast of Tay Ninh town between Dec. 30 and Jan. 11, the enemy took 335 casualties (113 GIs) and had 17 choppers downed and 7 tanks and armoured cars destroyed.

— In the mountainous sector of Quang Tri and Thua Thien area (between Gio Sanh and A Bui), from Jan. 2 to 17, 20 planes and choppers were grounded and 6 were damaged. On Jan. 2, 8 choppers were knocked out of the skies South of Khe Sanh, and on Jan. 17 a spotter chopper was grounded, killing an American colonel, the deputy commander of the US artillery unit at Tri-Thien.

— Western agencies reported that at least 110 targets were bombed by the PLAF in 3 nights: 30 on Jan. 18 (at the Mekong Delta), 20 on Jan. 19 including a subsector CP in Go Cong province, south of Saigon, and 60 on Jan. 20 including Binh Hoa airbase, the HQ of the US Army at Long Binh, the HQ of the First Cav. at Phuoc Vinh, the HQ of a brigade of the Tropic Lightning, near Tay Ninh, Phan Rang air base, and Phan Thiet and Gia Nghia provincial capitals (Southern Truong Bo).

Medicinal drugs being manufactured in a laboratory of South Viet Nam free zone



## ★ Students Denounce GIs and South Korean Mercenaries' Massacre of Civilians

**I**N a teach-in at the An Quang pagoda on Jan. 15 last, attended by Buddhist leaders, politicians and senators, 300 students denounced the massacre of 200 civilians at Phu Yen in 1969 by South Korean troops and GIs as a crime which "outraged the ways and customs of the Vietnamese". Western sources reported. They strongly

took to task the Saigon authorities for hushing up the truth. A "senator" flayed the puppet administration for "leaving in snakes to kill chickens of the home coop". A Buddhist leader unmasked Thien as a Washington placeman "protected by armoured cars and cannons".

## ★ Monsters

The Saigon press revealed that owing to increased sprayings of toxic chemicals, many women had, over the last few months, given birth to monsters. According to the *Saigon Sunday Post*, in November, a woman was delivered of a monster having a fair-complexioned face,

a black and scaled body and footless twin legs. *Tu Du* hospital and Hung Vuong clinic, many women had "laid eggs" (Okinawa disease). In the first half of 1969, there were 49 cases of these spawnings involving mostly country-women.

## ★ Economic Crisis

The same sources disclosed that prices had been spiralling up and inflation was a "persistent problem". The cost of living has soared by 34 per cent in the last few months compared with the corresponding period of 1968. In the first week of 1970, the prices of grain rose by 35 per cent and of other com-

modities by 29 per cent, those of some imported goods by 75 per cent (*V-PH*, Jan. 8). The devaluation of the piastre is catastrophic, the dollar fetching 350 piastres in the black market, while the official exchange rate is 118 only. The slump continues on the threshold of 1970, *V-PH* said.

## ★ Thieu Threatens Repression against the Campaign in Favour of a Neutralist Union Government

On Jan. 13, at Vung Tau, Nguyen Van Thieu flummoxed against the opponents of the war. He declared that the resistance forces should be crushed and all "co-operation" with the NFL and

DRVN rejected. The advocates of a political solution were also threatened. "We are going to suppress all campaigns in favour of a neutralist union government," he said.

## ★ Internal Rivalries among Puppets

**A**FP reported on Jan. 13 that Thieu had wrought a change in his diplomatic personnel on the other hand. Western sources said that Generals Nguyen Thanh Hoang, commanding the puppet 7th Division, and Lam Son, commanding the Special Forces at Nha Trang, and

Colonel Do Kim Giai, commanding the 18th Division, had been sacked together with many other field officers in the Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh area, the Western High Plateaux, the 44th Special Area, etc. There was rumor of a Thieu plan to remove from 12 to 14 provincial chiefs.

## ★ The US Command Afraid of Truth

According to *USIS* of Jan. 16, the US Command banned all statements by NFL-released POWs on the humane treatment they had received during their detention. This decision was

taken as a result of declarations made by 3 GIs set free in November and 2 others in December last. One of them said he would never fight against the South Vietnamese people again.